

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Applicants thank the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application. Claims 1-21 are pending in the present application. Claims 13-21 are new. Claims 1, 6, and 13 are independent. The Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the rejection of claims 1-12 in view of the remarks set forth below.

Claim for Priority

It is gratefully acknowledged that the Examiner has recognized the Applicants' claim for foreign priority based upon an international application designating the United States. In view of the fact that Applicants' claim for priority has been acknowledged, no additional action is required from the Applicants at this time.

Acknowledgment of Information Disclosure Statement

The Examiner has acknowledged the Information Disclosure Statement filed on February 18, 2005. An initialed copy of the PTO/SB/08a/b has been received from the Examiner. No further action is necessary at this time.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(e), 103(a)

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-4 and 6-8 under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U. S. Patent Publication 2004/0077378 A1 (Kim et al.,

hereinafter "Kim"). The Examiner has rejected claims 5-9 and 9-12 under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kim in view of U.S. Patent Publication 20020049058 A1(Tee).

The Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw both rejections because the Kim patent publication is not prior art with respect to the present application. The earliest effective filing date of Kim as a prior art reference under 102(e) is July 2, 2003, i.e., its earliest filing date in the U.S. The present application has an earlier effective filing date in the U.S., i.e., its June 18, 2003 foreign priority date based upon the filing of application JP 2003-173725 in Japan. Attached is a certified translation of the priority document. Accordingly, Kim is not prior art with respect to the present application, and the rejections must be withdrawn.

Conclusion

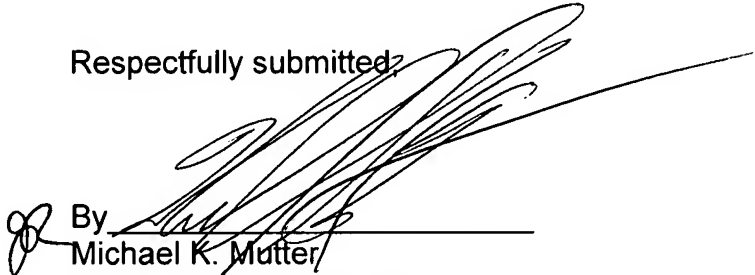
Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Jason Rhodes (Reg. No. 47,305) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated:

Respectfully submitted,

MKM/RJM/lab/JWR


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Attached: Certified translation of priority document